

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-36, and 38-49 are pending in this application. Claims 20, 22, 29, and 35 have been withdrawn from consideration. In an Office Action mailed January 4, 2005, Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 13, 16-19, 21, 28, 36, 39, 40, and 47 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 3, 8-12, 14, 15, 38, 41-46, 48, and 49 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 23-27 and 30-35 were indicated as allowed. In view of the remarks that follow, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 13, 17, and 21

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 13, 17, and 21 were rejected in the Office Action under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-5 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,567, issued to applicant. Attached hereto is a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). In light of the attached terminal disclaimer, applicant submits that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection is overcome. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 13, 17, and 21 be withdrawn.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 16, 18, 36, 39, 40, and 47

Claims 16, 18, 36, 39, 40, and 47 were rejected in the Office Action under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-5 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,567, issued to applicant, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,923, issued to Tompkins. Attached hereto is a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). In light of the attached terminal disclaimer, applicant submits that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection is overcome. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 16, 18, 36, 39, 40, and 47 be withdrawn.

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Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 19 and 28

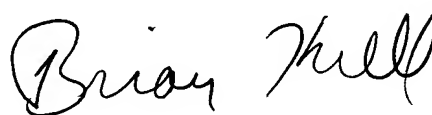
Claims 19 and 28 were rejected in the Office Action under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,567, issued to applicant, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,032,622, also issued to applicant. Attached hereto is a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). In light of the attached terminal disclaimer, applicant submits that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection is overcome. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 19 and 28 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of enclosed terminal disclaimer and above remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and allowance of the claims at an early date, is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
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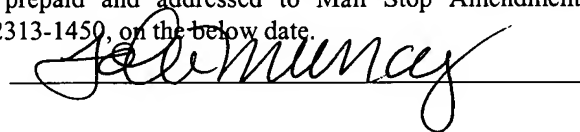


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Date:

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